

Peru Seizes 2 Onassis Ships Whaling Inside New Limit

Peruvian warships yesterday seized two vessels of the whaling fleet operated by Aristotle Socrates Onassis, international ship operator, for whaling within 200 miles of the Peruvian coast.

The seizure is expected to precipitate a test of the fishing decrees announced this year by Ecuador, Chile and Peru, barring fishing by foreign vessels within 200 miles of their coasts.

"Waiting to See"

Mr. Onassis said the two ships were the Olympic Lightning and the Olympic Victor, of his nineteen-ship fleet operating in Pacific waters. Guards were placed aboard the vessels and "we are waiting to see what will be done."

The three-nation decree was announced in September after the Onassis fleet had left Germany to hunt along the 4,000-mile west coast of South America for sperm whales until the Antarctic season opened. Since operation of such a fleet costs up to \$40,000 a day, it was decided

to go ahead with the expedition and hunt outside the newly-defined territorial waters.

The fleet was preparing to end operations and proceed to the Antarctic when the seizure occurred.

Protest Expected

The Panamanian government has protested the fishing decree and is expected to protest the seizure, since the Onassis fleet operates under its flag. The Norwegian government is also reported preparing to contest the decree. A Norwegian fleet preparing to fish in the waters called off the expedition when the three-nation agreement was announced.

Mr. Onassis described it as "the most flagrant arbitrary breach of international law ever committed," adding that the same logic of extending the territorial waters to 200 miles could be applied to "a couple of thousands of miles and include Australia and the Hawaiian Islands as territorial possessions."

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